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Book Review: *Rare Plants of Texas* By Jackie M. Poole, William R. Carr, Dana M. Price, and Jason R. Singhurst

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Rare Plants of Texas. By Jackie M. Poole, William R. Carr, Dana M. Price, and Jason R. Singhurst. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2007. xv + 640 pp. Maps, photographs, illustrations, glossary, references, index. \$35.00 cloth.

The botanical diversity of Texas has been well documented, so it is surprising that few books focusing on the state's endangered and threatened plants have been published. According to the authors of *Rare Plants of Texas*, this is because "most of these plants are too rare to be mentioned, much less pictured, in standard guidebooks." Their book, attempting to remedy this situation, succeeds with photos, drawings, and descriptions of 225 taxa considered rare within the state.

Expanding on Poole and Riskand's *Endangered, Threatened or Protected Native Plants of Texas* (1987), the majority of *Rare Plants of Texas*'s 640 pages are devoted to treatments of individual taxa. The information presented for each includes a county-level distribution map and line drawings, photos, or both. Each entry also contains sections on nomenclature and synonymy, ranking and status, morphology and phenology, habitat and range, and accounts of physically similar species. Nomenclature is primarily based on *Vascular Plants of Texas* (1997). Species are arranged alphabetically by genus.

A detailed introductory section preceding the individual taxa accounts places emphasis on the state's 11 natural regions and the rare species found within their borders. A nod is given to the current status of plant conservation in Texas as well as its history. Detailed explanations of plant rarity, status, and ranking are provided. Threats to and management and restoration of rare plants are also acknowledged, citing specific examples. Instructions for reporting sightings of rare species and an example of a reporting form are included as well. The book concludes with a detailed glossary and bibliography. Plants are indexed by scientific and common names.

Species accounts are well written and informative, and the supply of photos and drawings is generous. Frequently, little attention is paid to the vegetative parts of plants in field guide photos; this book corrects the problem by providing additional drawings in some cases. As a heritage botanist, I appreciate the inclusion of the rare plant reporting guidelines. Little money is available for rare plant work these days, and we rely on input from interested botanical amateurs.

Rare Plants of Texas is focused, obviously, on the state of Texas. About only 50 or so of the 255 included taxa fall within the traditional "borders" of the Great Plains region. Despite this, the book is a great addition to the libraries of those who work with rare plants anywhere in the country. I want one for my state! **Amy K. Buthod**, *Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma*.